



**Health Services**  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County  
Board of Supervisors

June 27, 2006

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TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Bruce A. Chernof, M.D.  
Director and Chief Medical Officer

Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director of Public Health and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON CULTURAL FOOD PREPARATION LAWS**

Bruce A. Chernof, MD  
Director and Chief Medical Officer

John R. Cochran III  
Chief Deputy Director

William Loos, MD  
Acting Senior Medical Officer

On October 18, 2005, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich directing the Director of Public Health to convene meetings with restaurant groups representing various Asian cuisines. This is to provide an update on our progress since the March 20, 2006 status report.

Determine additional training needs on the recent State law changes concerning food temperature

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Status – The Environmental Health, Consultation and Technical Services (CTS) unit has received and reviewed completed needs assessment surveys from professional/trade organizations representing the Chinese and Korean restaurant communities. Since professional/trade organizations representing the Japanese restaurant community did not respond to similar surveys, and viable organizations representing the Filipino, Thai, and Vietnamese restaurant communities could not be identified, CTS pursued an alternate avenue to determine specific needs.

CTS identified and confirmed, via telephone inquiry, 201 restaurants serving Japanese cuisine, 72 restaurants serving Filipino cuisine, 149 restaurants serving Thai cuisine, and 78 restaurants serving Vietnamese cuisine. Additionally, 257 restaurants serving Chinese cuisine and 82 restaurants serving Korean cuisine were identified and confirmed. CTS began translation of the needs assessment survey into Tagalog, Japanese, Thai, and Vietnamese. The Tagalog translation has been completed while the Japanese, Thai, and Vietnamese translations are still in process. Tagalog surveys were mailed to those confirmed restaurants serving Filipino cuisine and surveys will also be mailed to requisite Japanese, Thai, and Vietnamese restaurants upon the completion of the survey translations. To further assure an accurate assessment of the Chinese and Korean restaurant communities' needs, translated surveys were also mailed to the 257 Chinese and 82 Korean restaurants.

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CTS continued the development of a Chinese food safety workshop and initiated the development of a Korean food safety workshop. Similar workshops will be developed for the Filipino, Japanese, Thai, and Vietnamese restaurant communities pending the results of completed needs assessment surveys representing each community.

Additional studies on the safety of traditional cultural food preparation techniques

Status – A literature review is ongoing for food items that survey respondents have identified as areas of concern with respect to food holding temperature requirements, and reviews of additional food items may commence pending the results of incoming needs assessment surveys. Laboratory analyses of these food items may be necessary dependent upon the existing literature.

Public Health will provide you with another status report in 90 days. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please let either of us know.

BAC:JEF:hd  
511:025

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors